



Open Space Steering Committee

Virtual Community Meeting
January 27, 2021

Agenda

1. Zoom Ground Rules
2. FOIA/Open Meetings
3. Update on definition and purpose
4. Public Access Easements
 - Discussion: Extent of public accessibility
5. Next Steps
6. Public Comment
7. Adjourn

Zoom Ground Rules



FOIA/Open Meetings Rules

What are the obligations of Open Space Steering Committee members related to public meetings and carrying out Committee business?

- Any gathering of 3 or more members of the Committee is an official meeting and must be open to the public (in-person/virtual).
- All Committee meetings where 3 or more members are discussing Committee business must be public noticed a minimum of 3 working days prior to the meeting day.
- Committee members are not permitted to carry out Committee business using electronic communication such as, but not limited to, email, chat rooms, instant messaging, texting, etc.
 - To avoid potential problems, it is advisable that Committee members:
 - Not use REPLY ALL to emails - Respond and/or comment to [Ana Vicinanza](#) or [Judy Lo](#)
 - Not initiate emails to the full Committee – Coordinate communication through to [Ana Vicinanza](#) or [Judy Lo](#)
 - When possible, wait to communicate to the full Committee at the next scheduled meeting
- Committee meetings may only occur if a Quorum is present/virtual.

Task 1 Update

- Purpose – where the definition will live
 - Guidance document (examples)
- Draft definition
- Draft purpose, characteristics, goals, etc.

Draft Definition

Publicly Accessible Open Space in the City of Alexandria is:

Outdoor space that has guaranteed public access with the primary purpose being formal or informal recreation; or the conservation and protection of natural, cultural, or historic resources; and which enhances the health and well-being of Alexandria.

Extent of Public Accessibility Discussion

Public Access Easements

- Typically allows "Pedestrian Ingress-Egress"
- Owner is responsible for maintenance and retains title to property
- Owner may close easement for maintenance
- Owner may close easement according to operational hours, such as sunset to sunrise each day
- City/public has full and free use of easement



Programming within Public Access Easements

- To what extent should there be restrictions on programming and activities within the easement area?
Examples:

- Holding private or public events such as concerts
- Allowing businesses or residents to vend services such as farmer's markets, classes or outdoor dining
- How many events or programs should be allowed?



Design within Public Access Easements



Design within Public Access Easements



Wilkes/Payne Street Public Access



Publicly Accessible Open Space Characteristics

- How do we make publicly accessible open space feel public and not privatized?
- What are characteristics that make spaces feel public versus private?



Thank you for your input!

Next Steps

- Using the input collected from tonight's meeting staff will begin drafting extent of public accessibility on publicly accessible open space
- Staff will send out Definition, Purpose, Characteristics, and Goals document to Committee to review and edit
- **Next Meeting:** February 24, 2021

Information & Questions

- Information
 - [Open Space Planning](#)
- Questions
 - Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner II
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 - Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner
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 - Jack Browand, Division Chief
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Public Comment

- Please use the "Raise Your Hand" feature or "*9" to inform staff you would like to comment.
- Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker.

Thank you!

Next meeting is February 24, 2021 at 7 p.m.